

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. Please cancel claims 1-6 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please add new claims 11-26.

Claims 1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) An elastic support assembly for an electric power steering apparatus in which a worm shaft is supported movably in a rotation axis direction through the elastic support assembly, the elastic support assembly comprising:

a pair of first and second members relatively ~~moving~~ movable in the rotation axis direction according to a movement of the worm shaft;

an elastic body provided between the first and second members in the rotation axis direction; and

a cover which covers an outer periphery part of the elastic body from a radial direction of the worm shaft and is connected to the first member.

8. (Original) The elastic support assembly according to claim 7, wherein the first and second members include seating faces on which the elastic body seats, respectively, and

the seating face of at least one of the first and second members is formed with a protrusion part protruding toward the seating face of the other of the first and second members.

9. (Currently Amended) The elastic support assembly according to claim 7, wherein the first and second members have a substantially disc shape and respectively include insertion holes through which the worm shaft is inserted,

the elastic body includes an insertion hole through which the worm shaft is inserted,

the second member and the elastic body are interposed between the first member and the cover,

the cover includes an upper face having an insertion hole through which the worm shaft is inserted, and a cylindrical periphery wall extending from an outer periphery part of the upper face to an outer periphery part of the first member, and

the periphery wall is connected to the first member, and the elastic body and the second member are accommodated in a space defined by the first member, the upper face of the cover and the periphery wall of the cover so as to prevent the elastic body and the second member from separating therefrom.

10. (Currently Amended) The elastic support assembly according to claim 9, wherein the first and second members include respectively seating faces on which the elastic body seats and, the seating face of at least one member of the first and second members is ~~formed with~~ comprises a protrusion part protruding toward the seating face of the other of the first and second member.

11. (New) The elastic support assembly according to claim 7, wherein the elastic body includes an insertion hole through which the worm shaft is inserted.

12. (New) The elastic support assembly according to claim 7, wherein the second member and the elastic body are interposed between the first member and the cover.

13. (New) The elastic support assembly according to claim 7, wherein the cover includes an upper face having an insertion hole through which the worm shaft is inserted, and a cylindrical periphery wall extending from an outer periphery part of the upper face to an outer periphery part of the first member.

14. (New) The elastic support assembly according to claim 13, wherein the periphery wall is connected to the first member, and the elastic body and the second member are accommodated in a space defined by the first member, the upper face of the cover and the periphery wall of the cover such that the elastic body and the second member are inhibited from separating therefrom.

15. (New) The elastic support assembly according to claim 7, wherein the elastic support assembly is slidable in the rotation axis direction according to a movement of the worm shaft.

16. (New) The elastic support assembly according to claim 7, wherein the elastic body comprises a conical spring having an outer and an inner diameter.

17. (New) The elastic support assembly according to claim 16, wherein the conical spring further includes a notch on a portion of the inner diameter.

18. (New) The elastic support assembly according to claim 16, wherein the inner diameter is less than a diameter of the worm shaft to which the elastic body is attached.

19. (New) The elastic support assembly according to claim 16, wherein the conical spring is deformable along the rotation axis direction according to a movement of the worm shaft.

20. (New) The elastic support assembly according to claim 8, wherein the protrusion part protrudes through a notch on a portion of an inner diameter of the elastic body to regulate the maximum amount of deflection of the elastic body along the rotational axis of direction according to a movement of the worm shaft.

21. (New) The elastic support assembly according to claim 7, wherein the first and second members include an insertion hole for receiving the worm shaft,

wherein the first and second member insertion holes have a diameter which is less than a diameter of the worm shaft, and

wherein the cover contacts and holds outer periphery portions of the first and the second members.

22. (New) The elastic support assembly according to claim 21, wherein the first and second member insertion holes have the same diameter.

23. (New) The elastic support assembly according to claim 7, wherein the elastic support assembly urges the worm toward the worm gear in the axial direction.

24. (New) The elastic support assembly according to claim 7, wherein the elastic support assembly adjusts a movable amount of the worm in the axial direction.

25. (New) An elastic support assembly for an electric power steering apparatus in which a worm shaft is supported movably in a rotation axis direction through the elastic support assembly, the elastic support assembly comprising:

a pair of first and second members relatively movable in the rotation axis direction according to a movement of the worm shaft;

an elastic body provided between the first and second members in the rotation axis direction; and

a cover which covers an outer periphery part of the elastic body from a radial direction of the worm shaft and is connected to the first member,

wherein the pair of first and second members are spaced a distance from each other along the rotation axis direction according to a movement of the worm shaft.

26. (New) The elastic support assembly according to claim 25, wherein the elastic body is mounted between the distance between the first and second members spaced along the rotation axis direction according to a movement of the worm shaft.